

at the Bldg. High school can borrow an open... applied in municipal court and... 31 at 9 a.m. to enter a plea. Walpole, Hermiston; Betty Jeangett, both of Salem; Shirley Jean High School.

But His Brushes Come Out When the Patients Go to Sleep

Father Pius Comforts Sick, Dispenses Bubble Gum at Hospital

By JOANNE BRAUNBERNS of the Register-Guard

A solace for the sick, an artist specializing in religious works, a dispenser of bubble gum—rolled into one, this is Father Pius Brazauskas.

As chaplain at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eugene, Father Pius ministers to the many patients. "When they sleep, I try to paint," he said.

Pushing his bed aside, he goes to work on his chief hobby, that of an artist. His two small rooms at the hospital are filled with his works, many of them still in process.

Currently occupying his time are works of art for a new Catholic high school in Portland, 18 paintings for the Dominican Fathers' retreat at McKenzie Bridge and a painting for Newman House on the University of Oregon campus.

Father Pius was scheduled to exhibit his works in the Erb Memorial Union gallery this month, but being pushed for time, he has postponed that until fall.

Born in Lithuania, he was one of 15 children. Counting relatives, he figures there have been 18 priests and one bishop from the family.

After entering the priesthood, Father Pius asked permission to attend art school. His bishop assigned him to a parish near the school, and he attended classes in his afternoon spare time.

For four years, he assisted in the parish and attended school. Then, the bishop gave him money to study art in Paris.

Then, too, the war began in Europe, and Father Pius lost the opportunity.

For five years he was a chaplain in a camp for displaced persons at Salzburg, Austria. Even then, he was "bumped along" on the road to art.

Father Pius attributes the beginning of his interest in art to his family, especially his father. The family lived on a farm, with a special spot devoted to a garden. From the beginning, the priest shared his father's interest in the arts, beauty of flowers, painting and music.

In seminary as he studied for the priesthood, he found a few moments to paint. He was encouraged by one fellow student and by one professor, the latter presenting him with an encyclopedia on art.

Then came art school, the war and DP camp. But even in the camp his interest in art was fostered. Father Pius taught courses in religion and art to other displaced persons. To keep up with his subject, he spent long hours in the library, studying art.

And so through the years, he has been "bumped along" on his art hobby, first by his father, the professor in seminary, the bishop who sent him to art school and then in the DP camp.

In 1949 through immigration channels, Father Pius came to the United States as a displaced person. He spent 1½ years as the guest of a parish in St. Louis, Mo., coming to Sacred Heart Hospital five years ago.

There was even coincidence connected with the... it seems

that a man who was his professor in Lithuania is now in the bishop's office in Portland. He aided Father Pius in securing the chaplaincy in Eugene.

Each morning at 6, Father Pius reads mass. He offers communion to those who request it, and he visits patients.

He talks to them all, not necessarily as a priest, but as a friend. For some patients, it is their first opportunity to chat with a priest, and they are filled with questions.

Children are a special delight to this Catholic priest. When he tells them his name is Father Pius, some want to know if he is really their father.

He always has candy and bubble gum for the youngsters, and to some he is known only as "Dr. Bubblegum."

The father holds services at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Sundays, is available with spiritual assistance for all who request it, helps in St. Mary's Catholic parish and works with Newman Club members at the University of Oregon.

Thus, there is little time left for his painting. He usually manages to sandwich it in about midday. While doctors are visiting patients and lunch is being readied for them, Father Pius has a few spare minutes.

That's fine with him for the sun is high, offering the best light for his work. Some days he can get in extra hours of painting, but it is never a sure thing, for he never knows when he will be busy with the patients. They don't always sleep.



THE PRIEST WHO'S AN ARTIST—Father Pius Brazauskas is seated among a few of the works which fill his quarters at Sacred Heart Hospital. At the left is a painting of the Most Rev. Edward Howard, archbishop of the diocese of Portland, and in the top center is a painting being made for Newman House on the University of Oregon campus. This finger painting portrays Christ and the Last Supper. Liking bright colors, Father Pius has painted the chalice full of bright red blood.

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